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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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BELGIAN FISHING INDUSTRY, 1963 1/

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I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1963 was a good year for the Belgian fishing industry. The small vessels (coasters, shrimpers) had one of their best years since the war, due to the large catches of sole, shrimps and sprats. The landings of sprat were so large that they caused serious disturbances of the market and only the existence of the minimum price system prevented a serious price decline. It is the general consensus of the industry that if it had not been for the minimum price system, a number of small shipowners might have gone under. Total landings of the Belgian fleet (in Belgian and foreign ports) increased by about 4 percent as compared with last year.

The fear of an extension of the British territorial waters to 12 miles, which would have been a serious blow to the Belgian fishing industry, fortunately proved to be unjustified. The compromise obtained at the fishing conference in London (January 1964) satisfied the Belgian fishermen.

The modernization of the fishing fleet continued as 17 boats were added to the fleet to replace older vessels of the shrimper type. It is noteworthy, however, that 3 of the largest vessels of the Belgian fleet were sold to foreign shipowners.

The labor shortage remained the industry's outstanding problem. If a solution to the labor shortage is not found in the next few years the survival of the Belgian fishing industry itself will be severely jeopardized.

Belgian imports and exports of fish products remained on the same level as in previous years. The U.S. share of total Belgian imports remained insignificant. Increased U.S. exports to Belgium appear possible, however, if prices are competitive.

Official statistics, available for the first time, indicated that Belgian production of fish meal during the past years has been overestimated.

II. GOVERNMENT POLICY TO SUPPORT THE BELGIAN FISHING INDUSTRY

The Belgian government supports the fishing industry by granting several subsidies to different branches of the industry. The budget of the ministry of Agriculture showed for 1963 and 1964 :

a) Subsidies to the "Propagenda Vereniging voor Meer Visverbruik" (Association to Increase Fish Consumption):

1963 : BF 350,000
1964 : BF 750,000

b) Subsidies to "Zeewetenschappelijk Onderzoek" (Institute for Biological Research in Connection with Fisheries):

1963 : BF 370,000
1964 : BF 370,000

c) Premiums of BF 2000 per year given to shipowners who submit their books and records to the Ministry of Agriculture (in order to improve commercial management)

1963 : BF 750,000
1964 : BF 750,000

d) Premiums given to shipowners for new equipment in connection with new fishing techniques :

1963 : BF 50,000
1964. BF 50,000

e) Premiums granted to apprentices and to the owners of the vessels on which they serve :

1963 : BF3,360,000
1964 : BF2,750,000

f) Budget of "Dienst voor de Zeevisserij" (Fishery Administration, Department of Agriculture)

1963 : BF 75,000
1964 : BF 75,000

g) Contribution to the International Council for Maritime Research :

1963 : BF 270,000
1964 : BF 280,000

h) Budget of "Raadgevende Kommissie van Zeevisserij" (Advisory Council on Fishery questions)

	1963:	BF 37,000
	1964:	BF 37,000

i) Premiums given to Shipowners for Research Work :

	1963:	BF 50,000
	1964:	BF 50,000
Total:	1963:	BF5,312,000
	1964:	BF5,112,000

This budget, however, is but a small part of total subsidies given to the fishing industry, since it does not include the subsidies granted under the minimum price system. These subsidies, granted by OCRA (Office Commercial Du Ravitaillement) amounted to BF 9,157,771 in 1963.

The Ministry of Transportation provided the following subsidies:

a) Ship replacement premiums (premiums of BF 5,000 per ton figured on gross ton replaced by new vessels) to support the modernization of the fishing fleet. In 1962, when the premium system was established, the total amount of the premiums was only BF 130,000. Since 1963, however, practically all replacements of vessels were partially financed by premiums. The total of premiums granted during 1963 amounted to BF 2,155,000.

b) Subsidies for loans at reduced interest rates: the "Fonds de l'Armement et des Constructions Maritimes" grants credits at reduced rates (about 50% below normal rates) for construction of merchant marine vessels and fishing boats by Belgian yards for Belgian shipowners. These credits may cover up to 80 percent of the price of the vessels. The difference between the normal and the reduced credit rate is absorbed by government subsidies. The total amount of credits granted for the construction of fishing boats were : (in 1,000 BF)

1960 :	BF 81,466.8
1961 :	BF 30,631.0
1962 :	BF 60,738.5
1963 :	BF 81,670.3

The exact amount of the government subsidies to absorb the difference in credit rates is not known.

The total subsidies granted by the Belgian government (Ministry of Agriculture, including OCRA, and Ministry of Transportation) in 1963 amounted to BF 27 million (to which must be added small subsidies given by local governments such as the Province of West Flanders, the cities of Ostend, Nieuport, Zeebrugge, etc.)

III. FISHING FLEET

During 1963, 17 vessels were added to the Belgian fishing fleet (15 new and 2 rebuilt vessels) while 6 ships were lost in shipwrecks and 13 others left the fleet. As a result, the Belgian fishing fleet consisted of 396 vessels on December 31, 1963 which is two less than last year. Of these 396 vessels, 7 were equipped with new motors and thus were moved into a higher class.

The replacement of the smaller vessels by larger ones continued, with the number of vessels in Class I and II (1) decreasing by 11 units. It is noteworthy, however, that among the vessels that left the fleet, 3 were from the 20 vessels which constitute the highest class (class VI). These 3 vessels of the Ostend company "Motorvisserij" were sold to a British company. All new vessels added to the fleet belong to class III and IV. A study covering the years 1957 to 1961, published by the "Dienst voor de Zeevisserij" (Ministry of Agriculture) showed that earnings were higher for the middle class vessels than for the largest boats. This explains the evolution of the fleet shown in the table below.

(1) Class of vessels : I= shrimpers; II=Coast trawlers III= small medium trawlers; IV= Big medium trawlers; V= small deepsea trawlers; VI= big deepsea trawlers

(for tonnage and motor power: see page 18)

Evolution of the Belgian Fishing Fleet
Number of vessels per class

Year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total	Total tonnage (1,000 T)
1938	236	85	123	43	2	21	510	28
1948	210	72	113	51	10	18	481	29
1958	130	72	144	66	18	13	445	29
1959	116	74	146	66	20	11	433	27
1960	103	73	142	64	22	15	419	29
1961	97	72	147	61	21	18	416	29
1962	84	66	145	61	22	20	398	30
1963	75	64	150	70	20	17	396	28

IV. CAPITAL INVESTED

As of December 31, 1963, the total capital invested in the fishing fleet was estimated at BF 1,213 million, a decrease of about 3 percent as compared with previous year (due to the sale of the 3 large vessels). The capital invested is estimated on the basis of the insurance value of the vessels (BF 1,103 million) plus estimated value of equipment (BF 110 million).

V. LABOR

At the end of 1963 only 346 vessels out of the total of 396 were manned. The total number of active fishermen was 1,443, a decrease of 145 in comparison to 1962.
Out of this total, 1207 were deck personnel and the remainder engine room crew members (see page 19.)

The number of apprentices also continued to decrease. The Belgian government paid premiums (50 BF per day) to 116 members under 18 (as compared with 137 in 1962). Out of this total 56 were listed as apprentices, 18 as first grade seamen and 42 as second grade seamen. During the past years the number of crewmembers under 18 decreased continuously.

1959	178
1960	165
1961	137
1962	124
1963	116

The premiums given to apprentices (that is to all fishermen under 18) and to the owners of the ships on which they serve, thus failed to stem the depopulation of the fishing fleet. As the government supported programs to re-train unemployed workers (in order to be come fishermen) and the incentives to attract foreign fishermen have met with little success, a continued labor shortage in the fishing industry seems inevitable.

Until now the decreasing number of fishermen was compensated for by improved fishing techniques and modernization of the fleet. Now, however, as most shipowners (small companies with only one vessel) lack the capital to modernize their equipment and the economic expansion of the coastal area continues to attract fishermen to new industries (construction, tourism, etc.) the future of the fishing industry looks rather dark.

VI. THE MINIMUM PRICE SYSTEM

The minimum price system, established in 1959, has proved to be a very effective aid to the fishing industry. Under the system prices are set up for various species, with fish failing to receive bids above the set wholesale prices being purchased by a special division of the "Rederscentrale" (shipowners organization). The fish are sold to fishmeal factories, feedstuff manufacturers, canners, etc., and the special fund absorbs the price differences. The increasing importance of the system is shown in the table below:

Year	Intervention of the Minimum Price Fund (1,000 B.F.)
1959	3,183 (from 5/26 to 12/31)
1960	8,201
1961	4,602
1962	7,979
1963	12,210

The fund is financed partly by the Ministry of Agriculture (OCRA : Office Commercial du Ravitaillement) and partly by the shipowners.

The shipowners pay a contribution of 1.45 percent on the wholesale prices received for all fish landed by their vessels (all fish landed aresold at the fish auction of the home port) to the Rederscentrale, part of which goes to the special fund. For the year 1963 OCRA paid 75 percent and the Rederscentrale 25 percent of the total budget of the fund. In 1964 the share of both organizations will be 50 percent.

In 1963 the interventions of the fund were as follows:(1)

Port	Fish Purchased (metric tons)	Value BF 1,000	Sold at BF 1,000	Intervention of Fund (BF 1,000)
Ostend	2,610	12,321	4,398	7,922
Zeebrugge	874	3,854	1,095	2,758
Nieuwpoort	558	2,094	565	1,529
Total	4,043	18,269	6,059	12,210

a) Fish (year 1963)

The total quantity of fish purchased under the minimum price system amounted to 3,364 metric tons (about 7.34 percent of total landings in the Belgian ports). This is about 508 tons more than during 1962. The total value amounted to BF 15,8 million (BF 2.5 million more than during 1962). The fish was sold to :

	Tons	Value BF 1,000	Average Price Kg.
Fishmeal factories	1,576	1,103	0.70
Salting/drying plants	433	1,512	3.49
Feedstuffs manufacturers	1,169	2,085	1.78
Exports outside E.E.C.	166	668	4.03
Canners	3.5	14	4.00
Deepfreezers	3.4	13	3.90
Losses	13	58	-
	3,364	5,455	-

The intervention of the fund thus amounted to BF 10,377 thousand, of which 75 percent (BF 7,782 thousand) was financed by OCRA and 25 percent by the Rederscentrale.

(1) The figures shown intervention of fund during calendar year 1963; in fact the minimum price system operates per season: fish : season = calendar year;herring: season= Sept. through Feb.; sprat : season = October 4-March 15.

b) Herring (September 1963 through February 1964)

Since the herring season was very poor, the prices obtained at the auctions were generally well above the minimum prices of BF 4 per kg. for summer herring, BF 3 per kg. for winter herring and BF 2.60 per kg. for "industrial herring". Only 106,260 kg. failed to received the above minimum prices and were purchased by the special fund at a total cost of BF 374,561. The herring was sold to fishmeal factories (85,660 kg. for BF 52,962) and canners (15,550 kg. for BF 36,470) and exported outside the E.E.C. (5,000 kg. for BF 13,000). The intervention of the fund thus amounted to only BF 264,911.

c) Sprat (October 4, 1963 to March 15, 1964)

The abundant catch of sprat during the 1963-1964 season caused large disturbances in the minimum price system. The minimum price of BF 4 per Kg. set at the start of the season had to be lowered because of the heavy drain on the fund's finances. The price was lowered several times (BF 3 per kg, BF 2 per Kg, BF 0,70 per kg.) while the contributions to the shipowners to the fund were raised to 5 percent of the wholesale prices received (as compared with 1,45 percent before). Even after the sharp decreases in the minimum prices, there was a continued heavy drawing on the fund (from December 12-28, for example, all landings had to be purchased, as they failed to receive the set minimum prices). The fund found it could not longer sell the quantities of sprat purchased to processors (who had already abundant stocks) or fishmeal manufacturers (already working at full capacity). As a result the Rederscentrale foroade the catch of sprat several days per week. The fund succeeded in selling large quantities of sprat to fishmeal plants in Germany and the Netherlands which improved the situation, but in reality the minimum price system was saved by a government decision to have OCRA finance 75 percent of the total intervention for the entire season (it was planned that OCRA and the Rederscentrale should both finance 50 percent from Jan 1, 1964 onward).

In total the fund purchased 4,517 tons of sprat for BF 6,796,000; 3,800 tons were sold to fishmeal plants (Belgian and foreign) for BF 3,050,000. Smaller quantities went to canners, freezing plants, etc. The total intervention of the fund amounted to BF 2,576,000.

The minimum price system "saved" the Belgian sprat fishers, who normally would not have been able to cover the losses resulting from the collapsing market. (Sprat is caught by the smaller vessels of Class I and II which even normal market conditions have great difficulty in covering their expenses).

VII LANDINGS

a) in Belgian ports

During 1963 the Belgian fishing fleet landed some 51,613 metric tons of fish, shellfish and mollusks in the Belgian home ports. Compared with 1962 this is an increase of about 8 percent (see page 20.)

1963 was a good year principally due to the large catch of sole (7,567 tons as compared with 4,159 tons in 1962). This compensated for somewhat smaller catches of cod and haddock. Landings of most other species of ground fish remained on the samel level as during 1962.

The 1963 herring season was somewhat better than that of 1962 (1,835 tons as compared with 1,366 in 1962) but the herring was of poor quality, which resulted in a considerable lowering of average prices (BF 4,74 per kilo in 1963 as compared with BF 8.68 per kilo in 1962), so much that the total value of the catch decreased from BF 11.8 million in 1962 to BF 8.7 million in 1963.

The sprat catch was unusually large (1,899 tons as compared with 796 tons in 1962). Thanks to the minimum price system the average price of sprat was maintained at BF 3.38 per kilo (BF 4.36 per kilo in 1962) with the result that the total value of the sprat landings increased from BF 3.4 million in 1962 to BF 6.4 million in 1963. Without the minimum price system the catch of sprat would not have been profitable, as under normal market conditions the average price would have been much lower.

The shrimp season was also much better than last year's (915 tons in 1963 as compared with 574 tons in 1962). The average price for shrimp which had reached BF 43.86 per kilo in 1962 decreased to a more normal level of BF 29.84 in 1963. Total value of the shrimps landed amounted to BF 27 million (BF 25 million in 1962).

All factors considered 1963 was a favorable year for the small vessels of Class I and II (the vessels which engage in the catch of sprat, shrimps and soles) which partly compensates for the very poor results obtained during previous years.

b) In foreign ports

Landings of the Belgian fishing fleet in foreign ports (principally British and Scandinavian ports) decreased from 5,471 tons (valued at BF 58.3 million) in 1962 to 3,870 tons (valued at BF 47 million) in 1963. Ninety-nine percent of the landings in foreign ports consisted of groundfish, principally cod (1,334 tons).

VIII FISHING GROUNDS

The most important fishing grounds on which the Belgian fleet operates are the Icelandic waters, the Southern part of the North Sea and the Coastal area. Other fishing grounds are located in the North Sea (East, West North and Central area) and around the United Kingdom and Ireland (Norray Firth, Flanden, the Channel, the Bristol Channel, etc.). Expeditions to the Barents sea, started in 1962, were not very successful and were not continued in 1963.

The coastal area, in which the small vessels of class I and II operate (catch of sole, ray, whiting, herring, sprat and shrimps) produced some 7 thousand tons of fish in 1963; this is about 1,000 tons more than during 1962. From the South North Sea came 12.6 thousand tons Principally sole, ray, plaice, whiting) or about 5000 tons more than last year. From the Icelandic waters (mostly new grounds to which the Belgian fleet turned after the extension of Icelandic's territorial waters in 1959) came some 17,500 tons, principally cod, haddock, lythes, ling and "Sebastes".

It is noteworthy that, compared with previous years, the catch on the nearby fishing grounds increased considerably while landings from Iceland, the Irish Sea, the Bristol Channel, etc. decreased.

Landings (in Belgian ports) as per fishing ground
Quantities in metric tons. 1963

Coastal Area	7,041
North Sea (south)	12,679
North Sea (Central-West)	3,802
North Sea (Central-East)	3,734
North Sea (North)	1,804
Morray Firth	194
Flader	33
Channel	629
Bristol Channel	1,879
Kine Head	1,155
West Scotland	627
Iceland	17,842
Irish Sea	229

IX ...EGR...ORT TRADE

a) Imports

During 1963 Belgium imported 139,640 metric tons of fish products (including 51,363 tons of fish meal), valued at BF 2,075 million. Compared with 1962 this is a decrease of 4 percent in terms of weight but an increase of 5.5 percent in terms of value.

The Belgian consumer prefers fresh products. Fresh groundfish, fresh water fish, shellfish and molluscs accounted for approximately 50 percent of total imports (disregarding fishmeal). Second came dried, salted and smoked fish (12,000 tons) to which must be added the fresh herring, sprat and mackerel (13,000 tons), which is almost completely destined for smoking, salting and drying in Belgium. Canned products accounted for about 23 percent of total imports (20,000 tons).

by

The Netherlands is far the most important source of imports, (principally fresh and preserved fish and mussels). The other main suppliers of fresh and preserved fish are Western Germany, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom. The most important suppliers of canned products are, besides the Netherlands, Portugal (4,269 T.), Japan (4,922 T.), South Africa (2,152 T) and Yugoslavia (1,525 tons) --see pages 23 and 24.

b) Exports

The Belgian exports of fish products are of little importance. In 1963, total exports amounted to 19,952 tons valued at BF 41 million (as compared with 22,000 tons valued at BF 392 million in 1962). Exports consist principally of fresh and preserved groundfish, sold to the EEC countries, Congo (Leopoldville) and Greece. (see pages 25 and 26)

c) Belgian Imports of Fish Products from the U.S.

Belgium imports only small quantities of fish products from the U.S. For 1963 the "Bedrijfsraad voor de Zeevisserij" reported:

51 tons of preserved groundfish
10 tons of shellfish
167 tons of canned products
50 tons of fresh water fish (trouts)

for a total value of BF 18 million.

Belgian imports, of course, originate principally from the Common Market. Imports from other countries are hampered by higher import duties (1), but considering the same products, imports from the U.S. are small as compared with imports from other countries outside the Common Market (Japan, Canada, South Africa, etc.). The United States, in 1963, for example, supplied 50 tons of trout as compared with 1,123 tons for Canada. Canada and Cuba respectively supplied 46 tons and 9 tons of lobsters as compared with only 3 tons for the United States. Given the fact that U.S. products in general enjoy a very good reputation in Belgium, it seems

(1) for import duties see page 27. Besides import duties also sales taxes are to be paid (see page 29)

that an increase of U.S. fish product exports to Belgium is possible if prices are competitive (1). The increasing demand for frozen fish fillets in Belgium may create a potential market for U.S. products, although Belgian manufacturers already have a strong hold on the market. A list of Belgian importers, exporters and wholesalers of canned and prepared fish products is given in enclosure 12. If the Consulate General should receive specific offers from U.S. exporters, a more detailed list of contacts could be prepared.

X. CONSUMPTION

Since there are no consumption statistics available, the Belgian consumption of fish products must be estimated on a basis of landings, plus imports minus exports. According to calculations of the "Dienst voor Zeevisserij", the apparent consumption of fish, shellfish, and molluscs amounted to some 121 thousand tons in 1963 (not including fresh water fish or fishmeal) as compared with 119,000 tons in 1962.

The total of 121,000 tons includes:

Herring	20,843 tons	) principally dried, salted, brinned
Sprat	2,423 tons	) smoked, or otherwise preserved
Mackerel	1,667 tons	)
Pilchards	60 tons	)
Sardines	3,729 tons	: 99 percent canned
Salmon	3,937 tons	: 99 percent canned
other fish	60,577 tons	: principally(in that order) sole, cod, haddock, ray, conger eel, of which some 50,000 tons fresh (2) and 10,000 tons canned products.
Shellfish	4,995 tons	: of which some 3,000 tons of shrimp; principally fresh and some 600 tons of canned products.

(1) examples of retail trade prices of canned and frozen products in Belgium are given on page 31.

(2) including frozen fish.

Mollusks 23,191 tons: of which some 21,000 tons of mussels. Principally fresh and some 1,000 tons of canned products.

Total consumption of fresh (1) products thus amounted to some 76,000 tons (63 percent) preserved products 25,000 tons (20 percent) and canned products 20,000 tons (17 percent).

As a whole, the consumption of fish products remains on a rather low level. According to family-budget statistics of the "Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek", the annual expenditure in 1963 on fish products per inhabitant amounted to :

fresh products	BF 209.90
salted, dried, brined products	45.70
canned products	86.30
prepared products	14.50
all fish, shellfish, mollusks	356.40

as compared with BF 3360.10 for meat products and a total food budget of BF 10,666.10.

In fact, the consumption of fish products (except canned products and some fresh water fish) is almost entirely limited to the coast and the larger cities (Ghent, Brugge, Antwerp, Brussels, Liege, etc.). In the Southern provinces (outside the large cities) sea food is practically unknown, notwithstanding the efforts of the "Propaganda Vereniging voor Meer Visverbruik" (Committee to Increase the Consumption of Fish Products). The Industry hopes that the availability of frozen fish fillets may have a favorable influence on fish consumption in the rural districts of Belgium.

XI. FISH MEAL

In 1963 Belgium for the first time reported its production of fish meal to the International Association of Fish Meal Manufacturers. The reported figure of 4,500 metric tons (1) including frozen fish.

falls considerably below the estimated production of previous years (6,500 metric tons). There is no reason to believe Belgian production in 1963 was smaller than in previous years for at the end of 1963 the fishmeal plants were working at full capacity as a result of the abundant sprat catch and as shown in the table below, net imports of fishmeal remained at the same level as in 1962. It thus appears that the estimated production of 6,500 metric tons in previous years was much too high.

On the basis of production plus imports minus exports, the Belgian consumption of fishmeal amounted to 54,779 tons in 1963. Less than 12 percent of this total consumption was supplied by Belgian manufacturers.

Fish Meal . Import-Export

	1962		1963	
	Metric tons	BF 1.000	metric tons	BF 1.000
Imports	56,971	363,467	51,363	330,133
Exports	5,811	41,891	6,084	20,072
Difference	51,160	321,595	45,279	310,061

The most important suppliers were Peru (29,663 tons) Chile (11,565 tons), Norway (4,884 tons) Denmark (1,404 tons) South Africa (2,277 tons) Iceland (641 tons) and the Netherlands (381 tons).

Exports went principally to Germany (1,819 tons), Greece (1,023 tons), Spain (111 tons) and Congo Leopoldville (32 tons).

XII FISH OIL

Belgian fish oil production, estimated at some 600 tons per year is insufficient to meet domestic demand. In 1963 Belgium imported 26,622 metric tons of fish oil, valued at BF 196 million. Imports included some 13,000 tons of whale oil, supplied principally by the Netherlands (5,400 tons) Japan (5,300 tons) and the United Kingdom (2,000 tons). The most important suppliers of other fish oils were the Netherlands

(13,700 tons), Norway (4,700 tons) Peru (4,700 tons) and Chile (1,500 tons).

On the other hand Belgium exported small quantities of fish oils (964 tons valued at BF 5.7 million) to the Netherlands and Western Germany.

Belgian Fishing Fleet, December 31, 1963

Class	Number			Horse Power	Tonnage
	1962	1963	Diff.		
I	84	75	-9	4,444	1,283
II	66	64	-2	5,884	1,697
III	145	150	+5	23,299	8,284
IV	61	70	+9	15,063	7,015
V	22	20	-2	3,365	3,238
VI motor	16	16	-	15,970	6,794
steam	4	1	-3	880	560
Total	398	396	-2	77,711	28,869

	HP-from-to	Tonnage from-to
Class I		
Shrimpers	15-79	5-28
Class II		
Coast Trawlers	80-119	19-57
Class III		
Small medium Trawlers	120-239	33-115
Class IV		
Big Medium Trawlers	240-499	73-185
Class V		
Small Deepsea Trawlers	350-499	118-220
Class VI		
Deepsea trawlers (motor)	500-1250	168-574
(steam)	880-1450	558-768

Crews per Class of Vessels and per Function 1963

Class	Ships Manned	Crew			
		Deck	Machine	Total	Average p.Vessel
I	62	150	18	168	2.71
II	56	141	32	173	[illegible]
III	140	459	127	586	4.18
IV	65	278	65	343	5.27
V	13	69	14	83	6.38
VI Motor	11	97	26	123	11.18
Steam	1	13	4	17	17.00
Total	348	1,207	286	1,493	

The Deck personnel includes:

348 skippers
83 first mates
3 crew masters
655 seamen first grade
51 seamen second grade
56 apprentices
6 cooks
5 radio operators.

56 Apprentices, 18 seamen first grade and 42 seamen second grade were less than 18 years of age and thus were all classified as apprentices for the purpose of the premium system.

Total Weight and Value of Fish Landed in Belgian Ports by Belgian Fishing Boats

	Landings 1962			Landings 1963		
	Weight Tons	Value 1000 BF	Average BF per kilo	Weight Tons	Value 1,000 NF	Average BF per kilo
Ground Fish	43,924	527,252	12.00	45,831	592,656	12.93
Pelagic Fish	2,520	16,688	6.62	3,935	15,699	4.03
Shellfish/ Molluscks	1,440	42,640	29.63	1,886	47,284	25.07
Total	47,885	586,631	12.25	51,653	655,341	12.69

Source:

Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek.

Landings of Most Important Species (Metric Tons) in Belgian ports

Species	Landings 1962	Landings 1963
Haddock	3,600	2,652
Cod	10,416	8,736
Whiting	3,888	4,020
Plaice	4,152	5,092
Sole	4,164	7,572
Turbot	528	600
Ray	3,720	3,576
Herring	3,276	1,836
Sprat	796	1,896
Shrimps	576	912
Total	35,116	36,888

Source : Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek.

Average Prices of Fish Landed in Belgian Ports
(Wholesale price in BF per kg.)

Species	Average Price 1962	Average Price 1963
Haddock	8.76	9.04
Cod	9.37	9.71
Whiting	5.06	5.[illegible]
Plaice	7.08	7.11
Sole	39.89	31.93
Turbot	35.42	33.06
Ray	9.97	9.57
Herring	5.68	4.74
Sprat	4.36	3.39
Shrimps	43.86	29.35

Source : Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek.

Belgian Imports of Fish products as Per Commodities 1962

	Tons	Million B.F.
Fresh Fish		
Fresh water fish	2,913	147.5
Herring	10,487	6[illegible].2
Sprat	805	4.4
Mackerel	1,047	1[illegible].5
Ground fish	14,492	3[illegible].[illegible]
	30,544	565.4
Salted, Dried, Smoked Fish		
Salted herring	6,724	97.2
Smoked herring	425	6.7
Sprat	23	0.2
Mackerel	1	-
Other	3,267	51.3
	12,440	156.1
Shellfish & molluscs		
Shrimps (peeled)	1,247	122.8
Shrimps (not peeled)	844	24.2
Mussels	21,103	64.3
Other	1,458	115.9
	24,652	327.8
Canned fish	18,732	584.9
Canned Shellfish & Molusks	1,859	111.0
Fishmeal	51,363	330:1
Total	139,640	2,075.6

Belgian Imports of Fish Products as per Country of Origin 1963

Country	Weight Metric Tons	Value Million BF
The Netherlands	50,5[illegible]	636.6
Western Germany	6,675	116.1
France	1,710	36.[illegible]
Italy	35	3.[illegible]
Total E.E.C.	59,015 (43%)	792.5 (37%)
Denmark	6,965	157.9
Portugal	4,309	136.6
Norway	2,623	111.7
United Kingdom	1,592	68.9
Sweden	197	4.3
Switzerland	7	0.5
Total E.F.T.A.	15,695 (14%)	479.9 (22%)
Japan	5,027	207.1
Peru	30,244	201.6
South Africa	4,522	117.7
Canada	1,932	98.3
Chili	11,565	74.4
Yugoslavia	1,525	42.4
USSR	617	41.6
Morocco	992	21.5
U.S.A.	276	13.0
Spain	455	12.3
Other countries	2,013	28.2
Total	59,120 (43%)	863.1 (41%) (1)
Total general	139,640	2,075.6

(1) supplies from countries outside EEC and EFTA include principally fish meal (43,505 metric tons)

Source : Bedrijfsraad voor de Visserij

Belgian Exports of Fish Products as per Commodities
1963

	Metric Tons	Million B.F.
Fresh Fish		
Fresh water fish	312	19.9
herring	1,471	10.6
sprat	177	1.1
mackerel	296	2.3
ground fish	10,999	267.5
	13,255	301.8
Salted, Dried, Smoked Fish		
Salted herring	59	0.7
smoked herring	56	1.9
sprat	127	3.6
mackerel	6	0.1
other	2,823	62.6
	3,071	69.6
Shellfish and Mollusks		
Shrimps (not peeled)	39	2.4
Shrimps (peeled)	12	0.9
mussels	24	0.1
other	85	8.7
	160	12.2
Canned Fish	320	10.0
Canned Shellfish & Mollusks	62	6.5
Fishmeal	3,084	20.0
Total	19,952	419.9

Source : Bedrijfsraad voor de Zeevisserij

Belgian Exports of Fish Products as per Country of Destination 1963

Country	Weight Metric Tons	Value Million B.F.
France	8.037	205.7
West Germany	3,[illegible]42	46.3
Netherlands	1,933	42.[illegible]
Italy	188	10.[illegible]
Total EEC	14,100 (71%)	305.7 (73.[illegible]%)
United Kingdom	69[illegible]	23.2
Switzerland	76	5.7
Denmark	98	2.1
Total EFTA	873 (4%)	31.0 (8%)
Congo (Leopoldville)	2,259	47.[illegible]
Greece	1,133	8.[illegible]
Other	1,857	26.6
Total	5,249 (25%)	83.2 (19%)
Total general	19,[illegible]52	419.[illegible]

Belgian Import Duties on Fish and Fish Products (Percentage ad Valorem)

Product	General Tariff	For Imports from EEC partners	Future common EEC external
Fresh Fish (also cooled or frozen)			
A. Fresh water fish : trout	4.8	-	16
other	3	-	10
B. Sea Fish :			
herring, sprat, mackerel			
(2/15- 6/15)			
(6/16 -2/14)	6	-	20
tunny and sardines	7.5	-	25
other cooled	4.5	-	15
frozen	5.4	-	18
fillets	5.4	-	18
C. Shellfish and mollusks			
langoustes (hatching)	18	3.2	25
(others)	21.5	11	25
lobsters : whole	15	8.2	15
otherwise	16.5	8.2	20
crabs, shrimps	5.4	-	18
fresh water lobsters	15.9	8.2	18
oysters : hatching	-	-	-
other	18	11	18
mussels	3	-	10
other	2.4	0	8
Prepared or Canned Fish Products			
A. only dried, salted or brined			
I. Whole : herring, pilchards	3.6	-	12
cod, stockfish	3.9	-	13
sardines	4.5	-	12
salmon (salted)	4.5	-	12
other	4.5	-	15
II. Fillets : cod, stockfish	6	-	20
salted salmon	5.4	-	16
other	5.4	-	18

Product	General Tariff	For Imports from EEC partners	Future Common EEC external
B. Smoked : herring	3.3	-	11
other	4.6	-	16
C. Otherwise preserved or canned			
caviar and substitutes	30 (1)	16.5	30
salmon, hermetically closed	5.4	-	16
other salmonfish hermetically closed	16	11	16
otherwise	22.3	13.7	16
herring hermetically closed	22	11	22
other	22	13.7	22
sardines hermetically closed	21.5	11	25
other	25	13.7	25
tuna, mackerel, anchovies			
hermetically closed	21.5	11	25
other	25	13.7	25
other : hermetically closed	20	11	20
other	23.5	13.7	20
D. Prepared or canned shellfish and molluscs.			
peeled, cooked, frozen but not otherwise preserved			
shrimps, crabs	6	-	20
all others	23.5	13.7	20
Fish meal	1.5	-	4
Fish oil	-	-	-

(1) Till November 1966 : 24 percent

Source : Fresh Fish Products : Ministery of Agriculture, Bestuur der Economische Diensten.
Prepared Products, fishmeal, fishoil : Ministery of Economic Affairs (Administratie van de Nijverheid)

Sales Taxes (taxe de Transmission) on Fish Products
(To be Paid on Import Price including Duties)

Fresh fish (also cooled or frozen) (except for hatchery : 6%)	12 percent
Salted, dried, brined or smoked fish	12 percent
Fresh shellfish (also frozen)	
lobsters	16 percent
other	12 percent
Caviar and substitutes	16 percent
Prepared or canned fish if hemetically closed	6 percent
otherwise	12 percent
Mollusks : oysters	16 percent
except for hatcheries 6 percent)	
other	12 percent
Prepared or canned shellfish and mollusks	12 percent
Fishmeal from fish	9 percent
from shellfish or mollusks	6 percent
Fishoil	6 percent

Source : Customs Services

Belgian Traders (import-export, wholesale) of Canned and Preserved fish-shellfish and molluscs

Armour & Co. s.a., 14 Meir, Antwerp
Aspeslagh, 14 Vismijn, Oostende
Athenassof, 34 rue Vautier, Brussels
Bernad e Hijos, s.p.r.l., 34 Zirkstraat, Antwerp
Antwerp Trading Co. L.Buytaert, 14 Venusstraat, Antwerp
Ets. Charlier, s.a., 55 Kronenburgstraat, Antwerp
Ets. Frans Cloet, 13 Vismijn, Oostende
S.A. Conifribel, 1 Tunnelplaats, Antwerp
Continental Trading Corporation, 138 Kroonstraat, Antwerp
Victor Corneille, 1 Vismijn, Oostende
S.A. Soc. Comm. de l'Escaut, 9 Likenstraat, Antwerp
SPRL Fabri & Co, 107 Boulevard Anspach, Brussels
Gustave Fraikin, 220 Avenue Roger, Brussels
Franckaert & Van Ransbeek, 25 Riemstraat, Antwerp
Gesimex, p.v.b.a. 22 Van Aerdstraat, Antwerp
S.A. Ets. Charel van Haerten, 7 Emile Banninstraat, Brussels
S.A. Hottlet, 426 Mechelsesteenweg, Edegem
Interagences PVBA, 53 Lange Nieuwstraat, Antwerp
SPRL B. Kehler, 21 rue du Peuplier, Brussels
S.A Kreglinger, 9 Grote Markt, Antwerp
S.A. La Personne & Vanderlinden, 68 Paardenmarkt, Antwerp
Merstall SPRL, 11 rue des Paroissiens, Brussels
Nogeira & Co., 31 rue de l'Union, Brussels
Ets. Osterrieth, 64 Lange Nieuwstraat, Antwerpen
Ch. Plattenbosch, 10 Riemstraat, Antwerpen
S.A. Ravico, 47 Boulevard Jamar, Brussels
S.I.E.P.A. , 126 Bruggestraat, Poperinge
Silvades s.p.r.l. 1 rue du Bastion, Brussels
Sodeac, s.a., 53 Lange Nieuwstraat, Antwerp
Ch. Van Bergen & Cie, 21 Kronenburgstraat, Antwerp
S.A. Van den Bemden Freres, 32 Kronenburgstraat, Antwerp
Van den Abeele & Zoon, PVBA, 48 Pathoekweg, Brugge
Andre van Belsen, 79m Avenue Lancaster, Brussels
Verniest Freres, 84 Mechelsesteenweg, Knesselaere
PVBA F. Wellens, 20 Lambermontstraat, Antwerp
N.V. Camille Willems, 62 Vismijn, Oostende
PVBA J . Willems, 62 Vismijn, Oostende
G. Wuytens & Zonen, 9 Oudestraat, Peer.

Average Retail Sale Prices of Frozen and Canned Fish Products

Frozen Products		Net Weight	Price B.F.	
Cod fillets		225 grams	14	
		450 grams	25	
plaice fillets		225 gr.	17	
		450 gr.	32	
Trouts		340 gr.	39	
haddock fillets		450 gr.	28	
soles (fillets)		225 gr.	39	
(whole)		475 gr.	52	
crabs		170 gr.	39	
peeled shrimps		112 gr.	23	
Canned Products				
Sardines :	trade mark			Country of Origin
	Palace	125 gr.	10	Portugal
	Cocogne	125 "	11	Portugal
	Imperial	125 "	10	Portugal
	Normandie	125 "	7.5	Morocco
	Imperial	105 "	10	Portugal
Mackerel	Palace	125 "	12	Portugal
	Imperial	125 "	13	Portugal
	Captain Bird	85 "	6.50	Belgium
	Ostendia	125 "	8	Belgium
	BeBe	125 "	10	Portugal
Tuna	Adria (provencale)	127 "	8.50	Yugoslavia
	Adria (in oil)	127 "	10	Yugoslavia
	Picnic	127 "	6.50	Yugoslavia
	Golden key	190 "	13	Yugoslavia
	Imperial	125 "	10	Portugal
Salmon	Imperial Keta	220 "	19.5	Japan
		450 "	36	Japan
	Imperial Red	110 "	26	Canada
		220 "	43	Canada
	Imperial pink	440	32	Canada
		220 "	20	Canada
		110 "	15	Canada
	Hamecon pink	220 "	18.50	Canada
		440 "	33	Canada
		110 "	11	Japan

Sprat	Trois Pecheurs	75 gr.	4.50 b.fr.	Belgium
Crab	Regina	92 gr.	22	Japan
	Chatka	185	46	USSR

Source : Frozen products : retail sale prices imposed by Belgian manufacturers

Canned products : retail sale prices in retail stores and department stores in Antwerp (disregarding temporary price reductions for publicity reasons).

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